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Investigation and Interviews

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Investigation and Interviews

Detective Jim Trainum got a false confession because he provided the suspect with a wealth of information about the murder that was only known to law enforcers, which was typical of most false confessions. Additionally, after detectives studied the interrogation video later in detail, they discovered that the case could be a deliberately well-orchestrated confession indicating that detective Jim got a false confession (Trainum, 2014).

The mistake the detective made during the investigation was failing to pick up the shelter's log from the suspect's residence that individuals could sign in and out when they initially picked her up. The book indicated that she was not out during the murder and according to the logs, there was no way she could have participated in the murder of Lawrence O'Connell. The second mistake made during the investigation was the detective's use of the tunnel vision approach in collecting evidence for this case. Jim Trainium did not think it was necessary to check the shelter's logs earlier before because the suspect had already confessed, thus ruling out the possibility that she could be innocent. Furthermore, the mistake made during interrogation was feeding the suspect with information during the process. They provided copies of the credit card slips to the suspect that provided her with every detail she knew about the incident. Also, telling her, they knew what she ate that night, providing her with more details, which she later directed back to the interrogation team (The American Life, 2013).

The most important lesson I have learned after listening to the podcast is that certain situations can render individuals vulnerable. Thus, they are pushed into doing things that they consider right at that moment and might save them from that particular predicament. Therefore, I have learned that we must not judge people on certain incidences, particularly when addressing

important issues based on face value. It is essential to critically assess people's ideas, aspects, or contributions before taking a stand.

Finally, I picked this assignment to address and shed light on the plight of innocent and vulnerable young individuals in society who get caught up with law enforcement agencies and suffer the consequences for crimes they did not commit.

References

Trainum, J. L. (2014). "I Did It' – Confession Contamination and Evaluation," *The Police Chief* 81. Web-Only.

This American Life. (2013, October 11). *Confessions. Two Crime Scenes, Two Murders. One Crime Is Solved, The Other Case Went Cold. Both Raise The Question: What Should A Person Suspected Of Murder Say?* <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/507/confessions>

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